

N. H. O. No. 9 Midland Region

**RUGELEY  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**YEAR 1940**



**Medical Officer's  
Report.**



To the . . .

# Rugeley Urban District Council

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RUGELEY.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1940.

The exceptionally low death-rate of 1939 has increased to 14.7. Twelve deaths due to road traffic accidents are largely responsible for this increase.

The general health of the population has been satisfactory and malnutrition has shown no increase in the child population.

**Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

**Medical Officer of Health.**—C. N. Smith, M.C., M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer to the Staffordshire County Council and Medical Officer of Health to the Tutbury Rural District Council.

**Sanitary Inspector.**—J. T. G. Craddock, C.S.I.B., C.F.I., who is also Collector of the Council's rents.

**Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

|  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |            |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Area of District   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2882 acres |
| Registrar General's estimate of resident population, 1939— |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |            |
|  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7917       |
| No. of inhabited houses end of 1939                        |     |     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2200       |
| Rateable Value   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £33,202    |
| Sum represented by a penny rate                            | ... |     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £120       |

**Vital Statistics.**

|   |              | Total                        | M  | F  |
|---|--------------|------------------------------|----|----|
| Live Births   | Legitimate   | 131                          | 64 | 67 |
|   | Illegitimate | 5                            | 3  | 2  |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 17.18 |              |                              |    |    |
|   |              | Total                        | M  | F  |
| Still Births  | Legitimate   | 5                            | 4  | 1  |
|   | Illegitimate | Nil                          |    |    |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births, 35.     |              |                              |    |    |
|   |              | Total                        | M  | F  |
| Deaths ... ..   |              | 107                          | 56 | 51 |
| Death Rate corrected for age and sex distribution, 14.7.  |              |                              |    |    |
| For England and Wales                                     |              | Birth Rate—14.6              |    |    |
| ,, ,,   |              | Death Rate—14.3              |    |    |
| ,, ,,   |              | Infantile Mortality Rate—55. |    |    |

**Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.**

|   |     |     |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51.4 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births     |     |     | ... | ... | 53.4 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births |     |     | ... | ... | Nil  |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages)                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8    |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1    |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)                   |     |     | ... | ... | Nil  |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil  |
| Deaths from Puerperal Causes                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil  |

**Deaths from Cancer** according to age and sex.

5 Males aged 47, 47, 64, 72, 73.  
3 Females aged 57, 71, 80.

### **Housing.**

No houses were represented as unfit for human habitation.

### **Overcrowding.**

No housing scheme for remedying the overcrowding as shown by the survey made in 1935, when it was found that 58 new houses were required, has yet been undertaken.

The extent of overcrowding as shown there will not represent a true forecast of the present conditions.

A considerable number of wives and families of R.A.F. troops at the large camp situated on Cannock Chase, just outside this Authority's area, have come into the town. Accommodation is thus further strained.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The scheme for the drainage and sewerage of the Brereton District is still under consideration by the Ministry.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

The stream running through the centre of the town is clean and causes no nuisance.

A stream running through Brereton Parish is polluted by cesspools.

### **Water Supply.**

The Council obtain their water supply in bulk from the South Staffordshire Water Company. The quantity and quality are satisfactory.

Samples from taps are taken periodically, and all samples have been reported favourably as the result of chemical and bacteriological examination.

### **Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.**

Apart from measles, mumps and chicken pox infectious disease has not been prevalent. Of the seven cases of Diphtheria notified none have been immunised.

Measles has been prevalent but was not of a severe type, and death from measles occurred in a baby suffering from congenital heart disease.

No Immunisation against Diphtheria was carried out during the year.



### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1940.

| Disease              | Total cases<br>Notified | Admitted to<br>Hospital | Total<br>Deaths |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Scarlet Fever ..     | 22                      | 11                      | Nil             |
| Diphtheria .. ..     | 7                       | 4                       | Nil             |
| Pneumonia .. ..      | 8                       | 1                       | 1               |
| Measles ... ..       | 166                     | Nil                     | Nil             |
| Whooping Cough ...   | 8                       | Nil                     | Nil             |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 4                       | 4                       | 1               |

### Analysis of total notified cases of Infectious Diseases according to age.

| Age groups           | under<br>1 | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16-20 | 21-35 | 36-45 |
|----------------------|------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Scarlet Fever        |            |    | 4  | 1  | 2  | 2  | 5    | 3     | 5     | 5     |       |
| Diphtheria           |            |    | 1  |    |    | 3  | 2    |       |       | 1     |       |
| Measles              | 4          | 14 | 14 | 14 | 20 | 33 | 66   | 3     |       | 1     | 1     |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever |            |    |    |    |    |    | 1    |       |       | 1     | 2     |

### Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1940 there were 51 cases remaining on the Register.

| MALES       |                 | FEMALES     |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Respiratory | Non-Respiratory | Respiratory | Non-Respiratory |
| 16          | 16              | 8           | 11              |

### New Cases and Mortality, 1940.

| Age<br>periods | NEW CASES   |   |                 |   | DEATHS      |   |                 |   |
|----------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
|                | Respiratory |   | Non-Respiratory |   | Respiratory |   | Non-Respiratory |   |
|                | M           | F | M               | F | M           | F | M               | F |
| Under 1        |             |   |                 |   |             |   |                 |   |
| 1-5            |             |   | 1               |   |             |   |                 | 2 |
| 6-15           |             |   |                 |   |             |   |                 |   |
| 16-25          | 1           |   |                 | 1 | 1           |   |                 |   |
| 26-35          |             |   |                 |   |             |   |                 |   |
| 36-45          | 1           |   |                 |   |             |   |                 |   |
| 46-55          |             |   |                 |   | 1           | 1 |                 |   |
| 56-65          | 1           |   |                 |   | 1           |   |                 |   |
| over 65        |             |   |                 |   |             |   | 1               |   |
| Totals         | 3           |   | 1               | 1 | 3           | 1 | 1               | 2 |

The seven deaths were in notified cases.  
Notification of Tuberculosis is efficient.

**1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces**  
 Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

| Premises.<br>(1)                                      | Number of          |                            |                                 |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
|   | Inspections<br>(2) | Written<br>Notices.<br>(3) | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted.<br>(4) |
| <b>Factories</b><br>(Including Factory Laundries) ..  | 12                 |                            |                                 |
| <b>Workshops</b><br>(Including Workshop Laundries) .. | 15                 |                            |                                 |
| <b>Workplaces</b><br>(Other than Outworkers premises) | 1                  |                            |                                 |
| Total .. .. .   | 28                 | nil                        | nil                             |

**2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

|   |     |     |     |     |  |       |          |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-------|----------|
| Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : —*   |     |     |     |     |  | Found | Remedied |
| Want of cleanliness                           | ... | ... | ... | ... |  | 0     | 0        |
| Other nuisances                               | ... | ... | ... | ... |  | 0     | 0        |
| Sanitary accomodation unsuitable or defective |     |     |     |     |  | 2     | 2        |
| Total ... ..                                  |     |     |     |     |  | 2     | 2        |

\* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

I am, Gentlemen,  
 Your obedient Servant,  
 Charles N. Smith,  
 Medical Officer of Health.

| CAUSES OF DEATH                |   |     |    | Males | Females |
|--------------------------------|---|-----|----|-------|---------|
| ALL CAUSES                     |   |     |    | 56    | 51      |
| 1                              | Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ..       | ..  | .. |       |         |
| 2                              | Cerebro-spinal fever ..                 | ..  | .. | 1     |         |
| 3                              | Scarlet fever ..                        | ..  | .. |       |         |
| 4                              | Whooping cough ..                       | ..  | .. |       |         |
| 5                              | Diphtheria ..                           | ..  | .. |       |         |
| 6                              | Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..   |     |    | 3     |         |
| 7                              | Other forms of tuberculous diseases ..  |     |    | 2     | 2       |
| 8                              | Syphilis ..                             | ..  | .. | 1     |         |
| 9                              | Influenza ..                            | ..  | .. | 1     |         |
| 10                             | Measles ..                              | ..  | .. |       | 1       |
| 11                             | Acute Polio-Wyelitis ..                 | ..  | .. |       |         |
| 12                             | Acute Inf-Encephalitis ..               | ..  | .. |       |         |
| 13                             | Cancer of Buccal Cavity M. Heart F ..   |     |    |       | 1       |
| 14                             | Cancer of Duodenum and Stomach ..       |     |    | 2     | 1       |
| 15                             | Cancer, of Breast ..                    | ..  | .. |       | 1       |
| 16                             | Cancer of other sites ..                | ..  | .. | 3     |         |
| 17                             | Diabetes ..                             | ..  | .. | 1     | 4       |
| 18                             | Intra-Cranial Vascular Legions ..       | ..  | .. |       | 3       |
| 19                             | Heart disease ..                        | ..  | .. | 16    | 9       |
| 20                             | Other diseases of circulatory system .. |     |    | 1     | 5       |
| 21                             | Bronchitis ..                           | ..  | .. | 3     | 2       |
| 22                             | Pneumonia ..                            | ..  | .. | 2     |         |
| 23                             | Other respiratory diseases ..           | ..  | .. |       | 1       |
| 24                             | Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..         |     |    | 2     |         |
| 25                             | Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ..      | ..  | .. |       |         |
| 26                             | Appendicitis ..                         | ..  | .. |       |         |
| 27                             | Other digestive diseases ..             | ..  | .. |       | 5       |
| 28                             | Nephritis ..                            | ... | .. |       | 1       |
| 29                             | Puerperal and post abortive sepsis ..   |     |    |       |         |
| 30                             | Other maternal causes ..                | ..  | .. |       |         |
| 31                             | Premature birth, ..                     | ..  | .. | 1     | 1       |
| 32                             | Congenital mal. birth injuries ..       | ..  | .. | 2     | 2       |
| 33                             | Suicide ..                              | ..  | .. |       |         |
| 34                             | Road traffic accidents..                | ..  | .. | 7     | 5       |
| 35                             | Other violent causes ..                 | ..  | .. |       | 1       |
| 36                             | All other causes ..                     | ..  | .. | 8     | 6       |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year |   |     |    |       |         |
| } Total ..                     |   |     |    | 4     | 3       |
| } Legitimate ..                |   |     |    | 4     | 3       |



# Report of Sanitary Inspector.

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Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Tenth Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in the Health Department during 1940.

## **Closet Accommodation.**

The Town area is mostly sewered ; and of the 1,650 houses in this area, only eleven have not been converted to the water carriage system. There are cases in the district of closets having no flushing apparatus ; but during the year 6 houses have had water supply and apparatus provided.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the proper sewerage of the Brereton area. In this area are 248 privies, and 131 water-closets to cesspools. At Etching Hill and Hednesford Road are 131 houses, sixty of which have waterclosets to cesspools.

Nuisances have again arisen during the year from the overflowing of the Cesspools at Hednesford Road ; and in my opinion the sewerage of this area is desirable.

## **Public Cleansing.**

(a) **Dry House Refuse.**—The whole of the refuse of the district is removed by the Council's workmen in two covered vehicles.

(b) **Contents of Privies, Cesspools, etc.**—This is conveyed from the premises in a special Sludge cart and disposed of for manurial purposes.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs :**—During the year one Council House was found to be infested. The Council's workmen disinfested it by the following methods :—All picture moulding, skirting boarding, etc., was removed and sprayed at intervals. All defective plaster, nail holes, etc., were cut out ; and the back of the boarding, the plaster, furniture, nail holes, etc., were sprayed with an insecticide. The insecticide we used was Bo No. A spray is left with the tenant for frequent spraying. The workmen call after one month to repeat the spraying, make good the plaster, and replace or renew necessary workwork. Only distemper or paint is allowed on the walls. The tenant is given instructions to notify any reinfestation, and calls are made at intervals to see that the house is kept clean. The premises of prospective Council house tenants are examined, and if infested we endeavour to disinfest the house and furniture by the method described above, before the removal of the tenant to a Council house.

### Swimming Baths.

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in the area.

### Shops Acts.

The Shops Inspector has been working in conjunction with the Health Department in regard to the sanitary conveniences, ventilation, etc.

### Sanitary Inspection of District.

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Number of houses visited during the year, either in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease, or in course of investigating complaints, or in carrying out a systematic survey .. .. . | 1000 |
| Number of Final Notices issued .. .. .  | 23   |
| „ „ „ complied with .. .. .   | 23   |
| „ Informal Notices issued .. .. .   | 133  |
| „ „ „ complied with .. .. .   | 110  |

### Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in above Notices.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Drains and Water Closets amended in construction and/or cleansed | 20 |
| Dwelling Houses needing repair .. .. .                           | 27 |
| „ „ Overcrowded .. .. .  | 0  |
| Animals kept so as to be a nuisance .. .. .                      | 19 |
| Scavenging .. .. .   | 49 |
| Offensive accumulations .. .. .                                  | 13 |
| Other matters .. .. .  | 5  |
| Removal of Caravan Dwellers .. .. .                              | 0  |
| Shops Acts, Sanitary Conveniences, etc. .. .. .                  | 0  |

### Infectious Diseases.

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Number of rooms disinfected .. .. . | 30 |
| „ Schools .. .. .                   | 0  |
| „ Beds .. .. .                      | 35 |

### Smoke Abatement.

No action taken or found necessary.

### Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by

#### Bye-Laws or Regulations.

The Council have Bye-Laws for Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District. There is a Chandlery and Tannery in the District. There are no underground sleeping places in the District. There are no Bye-laws for, Houses-let-in-Lodgings, tents, vans, sheds, etc., offensive trades, or Lodgings and accommodation for Hop pickers.

### Schools.

In Rugeley town the sanitary conveniences are on the water carriage system. In the added area there is no sewer available, and the schools have earth closets which are emptied every week. The water supply to all the schools is received from the Council's mains.

## Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the District on which rag flock is manufactured, used, or sold.

### Housing.

#### 1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

|  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
| <b>Inspection—</b> (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts .. .. .                        |  | 79  |
| Number of inspections made for that purpose  |  | 183 |
| (2) Number of Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925   |  | 15  |
| Number of inspections made for that purpose  |  | 47  |
| (3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .                         |  | 0   |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation .. .. . |  | 1   |

#### 2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Number of defected dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 1 |
|--|---|

#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers.

##### A.—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1930, Sections 17, 18 & 23.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served and requiring repairs ..  | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : .. .. . |   |
| (a) By Owners .. .. .   |   |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners   | 0 |

##### B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . | 27 |
| (2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :                                 |    |
| (a) By Owners .. .. .   | 27 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners   | 0  |



### C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

|     |   |    |
|-----|---|----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made .. .. .   | 0  |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders .. .. .  | 13 |
| (3) | Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which the Council accepted undertakings from the Owners not to let them for human habitation when vacated .. .. . | 0  |

#### 4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :—

|          |  |         |      |
|----------|--|---------|------|
| (a).—(i) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the<br>end of the year 1936   | .. .. . | 58   |
| (ii)     | Number of families dwelling therein                              | ..      | 58   |
| (iii)    | Number of persons dwelling therein                               | ..      | 370½ |
| (b).—    | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported<br>during the year  | .. .. . | 0    |
| (c).—(i) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved<br>during the year 1936 | .. .. . | 0    |
| (ii)     | Number of persons concerned in such cases                        |         | 0    |

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a) Milk Supply. 75 visits have been paid to farms and dairies ; and the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders enforced. Six informal notices were served and complied with.

There are sixteen Cowkeepers and Dairymen residing within the District, and there are ten Retail Purveyors, whose dairies are outside our District. The Staffordshire County Council carry out the sampling and examination of milk for Bacterial Content and for tubercle bacilli.

- (b) Meat and Other Foods.

|   |    |    |    |      |
|---|----|----|----|------|
| Number of inspections and visits to slaughterhouses   | .. | .. | .. | 25   |
| Number of inspections of Butchers' Shops, Cooked Meat Shops, Fried and other Fish Shops, Stalls, etc. | .. | .. | .. | 1237 |
| Number of Informal Notices served   | .. | .. | .. | 16   |
| „ „ „ complied with   | .. | .. | .. | 16   |



All slaughtering of carcasses except emergency slaughtering is now carried out at Stafford Abattoir.

On inspection of emergency slaughtering etc., I found the following was unfit for human consumption :—four carcasses of Beef, one carcase of Pork, and 16 lb. of Bacon.

(c) Adulteration etc. This is not an Authority for enforcing the Acts and Regulations referred to under this head.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological examination of food.

The Staffordshire County Council have provided laboratories and carry out such work.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. G. CRADDOCK.





